

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending, including independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Dependent claims 6-9 and 15-18 are objected to, but were found to contain patentable subject matter. Dependent claims 23-26 were also found to contain patentable subject matter, except for some language the Examiner found to be indefinite.

Claims 2, 11, 19 and their dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite because of the phrase, "the rotational center therebetween." The language has been amended to clarify that the attitude set-up member has two sides, and a center of rotation is located between the two sides.

Claim 3 also was rejected as indefinite in describing an embodiment in which an attitude set-up member is provided on each side of the mechanism unit. Applicant has clarified the relevant claim language and appreciates the Examiner's suggestion. The same changes have also been made to claims 12 and 20 that contain similar subject matter.

Claims 1-5, 10-13 and 19-22 were rejected under either 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent 4,628,498 ("Takamatsu").

Applicant has amended the claims to add the content of allowable claim 6 to claim 1; add the content of allowable claim 17 to independent claim 10; cancel claims 6 and 17; and correct the dependency of claims 7 and 18. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18 are now allowable.

In addition, Applicant submits that the Examiner is incorrect in rejecting independent claim 19 over Takamatsu, but acknowledges that the rejection may be based on confusion in the claim language as mentioned above. With the clarifying amendment described above, Applicant submits that the subject matter of claim 19 is patentable. Takamatsu does not describe or suggest, inter alia, an attitude set-up member having two sides with a center of rotation located between the two sides, one side being connected to the clamp

mechanism and the other side being connected to the conveying mechanism. Because claim 19 is an independent claim, its dependent claims 20-26 are also believed to be patentable.

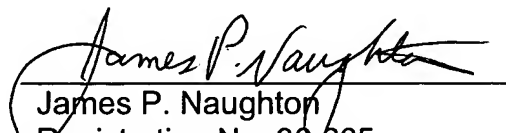
Claims 18-26 were also rejected over claims 2-9 on the basis of double patenting, i.e., having claims that are substantial duplicates. With the amendments described above, however, the claims will not duplicate one another, although claim 2 and claim 23 would be similar. Therefore, to obviate any further double patenting rejection, claim 2 also has been cancelled.

In summary, Applicant submits that the claims as presently amended are patentable, and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Dated:

5/3/06

Respectfully submitted,


James P. Naughton
Registration No. 30,665
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610
(312)321-4200